

OSA 1099-62

31 August 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR : Acting Director of Central Intelligence  
THROUGH : Deputy Director (Research) /HS/ I concur if it can be  
arranged.  
SUBJECT : Proposed Observer Status for Office of Special  
Activities at Certain Special Group Meetings

1. This memorandum contains a recommendation for your approval in Paragraph 6.

2. During the evolution and growth of our overflight activities, the Special Group has come to play a most important and authoritative role in the affairs of the Office of Special Activities and its predecessor organization. Not only have our proposed operations come under scrutiny by the Special Group, but our support planning has also recently been a subject of their deliberations; i. e., OSA cover stories. Much of the staff activity in OSA is concerned with the preparation of documents for Special Group consideration and such followup as is called for from the Director's office. In the instance of the Special Group meeting on 23 August 1962, for example, the entire agenda of the Special Group concerned itself solely with activities of OSA.

3. It is true that CIA as an Agency is adequately represented in the Special Group meetings by either the Director or the DDCI, and it follows that the Special Group Secretariat in due course does advise OSA of the conclusions reached at a given meeting, but it is not fair to assume that either the Director or the DDCI should be requested to inform OSA in detail of the discussions and conclusions reached at these meetings.

4. The representative of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Colonel Ralph D. Steakley, USAF, is present at each of the Special Group meetings for the

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OSA 1099-62  
Page 2

purpose of presenting programs of interest and concern to JCS and the JRC, but at the same time he is able to be in effect better informed on political decisions affecting his opposite number, the Assistant Director/Office of Special Activities, than the latter is. Mindful, therefore, of the important role played by the Special Group in the day-to-day operational activities of OSA, we are moved to request that we be permitted to send an observer to the Special Group meetings when that body is taking up a matter, the ultimate responsibility for which lies with OSA.

5. It is our feeling that this move would not only permit a shortening of the lines of information, but would also enable the Group to call upon this observer for supplemental information in support of a given topic with which the Office is concerned. We hasten to add that there is no indication here that we would take action upon special Group decisions without the formal approval through appropriate Agency channels by which decisions are now made known to us.

6. Recommendation: In the light of the statements above, it is recommended that you approve in principle the dispatching by the Office of Special Activities of an observer to Special Group meetings when action matters involving OSA are on the agenda.

JAMES A. CUNNINGHAM, JR.  
Acting Assistant Director  
(Special Activities)

Recommendation in Para. 6 APPROVED:

Signature: Marshall S. Carter

MARSHALL S. CARTER  
Lieutenant General, USA  
Acting Director of Central Intelligence

Note by DDCTI  
"Lay it on each week with [redacted]  
when we have agenda items - MSC"

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